(94)

17 March 1918

Charleston

Sunday

My Billy.

I returned yesterday from 2 days in London. While there I tried in vain to get on to you by telephone However (I don't think I should have seen you in any case. I hoped you might be at Barbara's party but heard you had gone to the opera instead I had such a lot to do that there wasn't much chance of seeing you. You will be at Asheham very soon I suppose. When do you want your blankets taken back. Is it by Wednesday? I think you

said the 21st. So I will
take them over any time
by Wednesday - I suppose I
can give them to Mrs
Attfield as I shan't be
able to get in to the
house. Do you
think when you come
that you could bring with
you the Crimson & Black
silk coat I left with
you last Summer?

Thank you. Very
much for writing to
Fergusson. I made other
arrangements eventually.
It turned out that Rogg
was going to have Painted
Adenoids done at Guildford

by his doctor who is very good & a specialist from London. He asked me to take the children there & have them all done together which I shall do towards the end of April, as it will be much better for them there than in London. They can convalesce out of doors more easily & I shall get the benefit of the London specialist as cheaply as if we were in London.

I'm still very sleepy from Barbara's party. We left at 4 & had to walk nearly all the way home. Part of the

coming was rather that part- awkward. Nick (Salon were a rather pleasant couple in the background.

Love VB.

Do you want anything done about milk this time?

T. PARSONS 3.2.73

(95)

Charleston 29 April 1918
cf Holroyde p 252

Tuesday

My Billy.

I hope you could read the scrawl I sent you yesterday. The postman was waiting & I wanted if possible not to lose any chance there might be of getting Nelly's niece. I feel we have mopped the thing because Nina's cousin first said she could come & now says she can't. Will you do what you can about Nelly's niece? If she come we would if necessary wait for her. But I must know soon. We still have only 3 rooms & a 3 any & though it doesn't so much matter

now when the house is
empty we shall soon hear
Brereton & Ross on us
again.
Your chocolate is
heavenly. & I suppose a
great extravagance in
war time. We are
living in luxury altogether
now. It's wonderful what
a difference it makes
having 3 cooks in the
house. However here I
am proposing to add a
great many more. But
there are no signs of
any yet.
We had Lytton. Clive
& Mary here till Saturday.
Lytton read his Gordon
aloud to us. I suppose it
will be a great success
won't it. It seems to me

The Strachey mind is much dramatic & that the result in such biography is to give a hysterical & unreal effect - But don't say I said so I must admit that both Duncan & I slept soundly (but he more soundly than I) though must of each reading so perhaps one can't judge.

Mary appeared in about 10 different dresses. I didn't have any conversation with her for much opportunity & judging by her that cripple is going on. Clive was still rather jaundiced which I think made him less demonstrative than usual But we left them together a great deal.

How are you? I meant

to give you much more
of a picture of your
health than I had
opportunity for. But I
hope you are being
sensible.

I shall come in London
I think but only for
2 nights about next
Monday & shall try to
take up any further
saleable objects. I'll
tell you if I find any
& we can decide
what to do about them

Your VB

My rabbits are going to be called
after princes in old Kensington
our old Kensington. I already
have Dodo - & Clara & Lottie's
that her name? & expect to have the
whole Boston family soon.

(96)

1918 25 April Dunbar

Thursday

My Billy.

You seem to have been showering blessings upon us. chocolates. books & a letter. The last of course the best from my point of view. But the chocolates really were a blessing when they came as they roused Juliet's greed & he began to make an effort to eat solid things which he had refused to do before. Poor little boy. he's had a horrid time of it as for several days he really could not eat or talk, his throat was so painful. But he's always a little inclined to [illegible] the agony. Quentin recovered at once, having only had adenoids done. However they're practically recovered now & playing in the garden in this delicious weather. We are going home on Saturday.

No parent yet a servant & I'm in despair. I've been to both the agents here Dreweths & another & neither have any servants who will leave this neighbourhood I am writing to Mrs Hurst but I haven't much hope from her. It's too annoying that we didn't get Nelly's niece. I suppose Liz knows of no one? I don't know how we shall get on with Mrs. Brereton etc. In fact I think I may

have to dismiss Ross if I can't get a servant. Especially as Mrs B. may be going to bring a nephew of hers, aged 7, to add to the household.

What a fascinating account of Ermengarde. She sounds rather nice. Is she very shy & bovine? I showed Roger your description of me & he couldn't make head or tail of it. I thought I understood but perhaps I didn't. Do go to the 17 Club again soon & write & tell me about it. Did I tell you I went there? Maynard & I had nothing to do between seeing pictures from Paris & dinner time one day & the 13th Club (a stenching entertainment) & the rain coming down. I thought we'd look for the club though we didn't belong to it & didn't know where it was. However we found it & there found Waley. Marshall. Cozens. Mrs Mott etc. everyone Maynard knew in fact. I see it has its uses on a wet evening but I shouldn't like to go there often.

It's a great nuisance. The Pelhams won't allow me to employ Duncan as I'm neither a married couple nor a farmer. Isn't it idiotic. So we will have to go on doing farms work very badly & our garden won't get looked after — it seems too silly from every point of view.

Please send me some more gossip soon. You left Maynard up wonderfully after sick rooms. a

Yours VB

(97) Clive Lucas.
Charleston
(1918)
46
122A Kings Rd
Chelsea.

May 1.

My Billy.

Your letter was very welcome with its Academy gossip. Here we are established again with Mrs B. Anne & a small nephew of Mrs B's. Just Quentin &c. Ross has not yet returned having had 2 front teeth knocked out in hockey which he has to get repaired before he can come. Its rather a relief as Ive got no servant. I wrote to Mrs Hunt but she holds out so little hope of me that she says she wont even book my order unless I specially want her to. I am trying the Lewes registry office again but they arent very hopeful.

I suppose Nellys niece is satisfied with her place & doesn't want to leave at the end of her month by any chance. I'd be very grateful if you could try the Chelsea place if it's easy one day. I try to conceal the number of people in the house if possible. But if driven to it I say we are as a rule 4 grown ups (including governess) & 3 children. This term we are 5 grown ups & 4 children I shall have a girl as well as another servant or, if possible, a boy. We are trying to get one instead of a girl as I think he could be made to work in the garden, feed

the animals. etc as well as doing the rough work. So its really not a hard place for the house parlour maid. The great drawback is that its so much in the country. but you can say that its within easy reach of Brighton & Eastbourne & which she can have constant outings. & I lend a bicycle for days out.

If you know of any one possibly that might be a chance of getting a temporary one. I don't like it but it would be better than nothing.

This weather is damnable isn't it. I hear from Barbara that Nick is getting steadily better though he was very bad when she first went to France

having just had his 4th
operation. She seems to
think he is out of it for
good now. Poor Sadan.

I suppose you saw that
Hilton lost his right arm.
Have you written to condole
with him? Do you think
one ought to?

When are you coming to
Asheham again? Not
that I can advise the
country at this moment.
It's too cold & windy.
But at any moment
it may turn nice

Yours VW

Clive says there are some bound
MSS by Father (Fawcett is one of
them) in the bookshelf in his study
at Gordon Sq. in the dark corner
on the left hand as you look at the
fire. Would there be worth selling?
If so could you possibly get them &
arrange with Sotheby's? I should think
their value would never be greater than
now but it may be too late to include
them in the sale.

(98) 5 May 1918

Charleston

Sunday

My Billy.

You really are a wonder. It sounds too good to be true even to hear of a possible servant in these days I'm coming to London on Tuesday for 2 nights. so I could go & see the woman on Wednesday if you'd let me know where to go. Perhaps you could send a line to Gordon Sq. to telephone to you to tell me - if I can also see you while I'm up -

All my other possible servants have fallen through - I do hope this one won't - She sounds perfect - I see I shall have to give high wages

but that can't be helped.
I'm coming up to see if
we can arrange to sell
Mrs Bostock's table & one or
two other things at Gordon
Sq. Perhaps you'd be
able to come to tea one
day - Tuesday, or Wednesday
which would be best, as I'll
shan't arrive till tea time
Tuesday. Or I could come
& see you if it's difficult
for you to come up.

Yours VB